

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 STR-08 EB-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1477

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY POLICY ON US NUCLEAR BASES

REF: LONDON 5911

1. AS EXPECTED, THE LABOR PARTY UNVEILED ITS NEW DRAFT FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON. DENIS HEALEY, WHO HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATING TO EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENSE, ARRIVED FORTY- FIVE MINUTES LATE, AND DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIS ABSENCE, JUDITH HART, AN EXTREME LEFT- WINGER ON THE PARTY' S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, UNDERTOOK TO ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT US NUCLEAR BASES IN BRITAIN. SHE SAID A LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD, AS A FIRST PRIORITY, ASK THE USG TO REMOVE ITS POLARIS BASE AT HOLY LOCH, AND THEN WOULD WORK FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL OTHER NUCLEAR BASES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MBFR.

2. WHEN HEALEY ARRIVED, HE SAID THE NEXT LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUEST THE USG TO REMOVE ITS POLARIS BASE AS A FIRST STEP WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MBFR. WHEN REPORTERS SEIZED ON THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE TWO INTERPRETATIONS, JUDITH HART INSISTED SHE HAD SAID WHAT HEALEY HAD SAID. DURING THE ENSUING INCONCLUSIVE EXCHANGE, RON HAYWARD, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTY, WEIGHED IN TO SAY THAT " IN PLAIN ENGLISH, IT' S AN INVITATION TO LEAVE." HEALEY COLORED AND THEN REBUFFED HAYWARD BY SAYING IT WAS A MISTAKE TO RE- INTERPRET AGREED LANGUAGE.

3. COMMENT: THE PASSAGE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY PAPER DEALING WITH NUCLEAR BASES IS POORLY DRAFTED -- THE BASTARD PRODUCT OF PROLONGED WRANGLING AND ULTIMATE COMPROMISE WITHIN THE NEC. HAD HEALEY ARRIVED ON TIME, HIS INTERPRETATION WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AS AUTHORITATIVE, BUT AS THINGS TURNED OUT, THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT BECAME PLAINLY VISIBLE. THE ISSUE WILL NO DOUBT ARISE AGAIN AT THE ANNUAL PARTY CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER, BUT AS HAROLD WILSON REMARKED AFTER LAST YEAR' S CONFERENCE, " GOVERNMENTS, NOT PARTY CONFERENCES, MAKE FOREIGN POLICY."

ANNENBERG

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